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Appalachia in Alabama

by

Annette Jones Watters

A common mental image of Appalachia is of an area containing rugged terrain, great poverty, land erosion and flooding, an unstable mining economy, poor farm land, polluted streams, poor health care, high illiteracy, a high proportion of the very young and the very old, poor housing, and little hope for the future. Thankfully, the truth of this image is changing. During the 1960s and 1970s great progress was made toward bringing Appalachia up to the economic condition of most of the rest of the nation. Alabama has great interest in seeing Appalachian improvement because thirty-five of Alabama's sixty-seven counties are considered to be in that region. Appalachian Alabama includes Pickens, Tuscaloosa, Bibb, Chilton, Elmore, Tallapoosa, and Chambers counties and all counties north of that border.

Although Appalachian conditions have improved, still the picture is bleak for some counties. Unemployment has continued at a very high rate. The Alabama unemployment rate for 1982 was 14.4 percent, compared to the national average of 9.7 percent, yet twenty-one of the thirty-five Appalachian counties had unemployment rates higher than the state average. Two counties in 1982 had unemployment rates greater than 22.0 percent.

Income has also persisted below the national average and even below the state average. In 1981 per capita personal income for Alabama averaged $8,217. Still, twenty-nine of the thirty-five Appalachian counties had per capita income averages below the Alabama average. The situation has improved, however, through time. In 1960 twenty-one of the thirty-five counties had poverty rates twice the national average. In 1980 only one Appalachian Alabama fell into that category.

Appalachia magazine reports that the traditional view of the work force in Appalachia is:

-- fewer women in the work force than the national average
-- less well-educated workers
-- fewer skilled and technical workers.

This scenario is also changing but not as completely as would be desirable. Appalachia has had a greater illiteracy rate than the national average and is not expected to close that gap completely during the 1980s. Madison County, containing Huntsville, currently is the county with the highest educational attainment level. Seventy percent of its citizens over 25 are at least high school graduates and 21.4 percent have four or more years of college. Madison County is counterbalanced by Cleburne County, where only 38.3 percent of the people over 25 have finished high school

In general, the counties containing urban areas, including Madison, Morgan, Lauderdale, Calhoun, Etowah, Jefferson, and Tuscaloosa, have higher levels of education, more money per capita, better health care facilities, and more miles of highway. Appalachian Alabama is more accurately represented by its rural rather than its urban characteristics. *Appalachia* magazine reports, "Assuming adequate continued public and private investments to make small towns and rural Appalachia competitive with similar areas outside the Region, the small town-rural appeal of Appalachia will be a plus for the Region into the foreseeable future. Demographers point out that the movement of jobs and people to small towns and rural areas has been sustained in the United States and other countries and is likely to continue. Offsetting factors limiting rural growth might be the leveling off of coal production in Appalachia and shift in employment from manufacturing to service, trade, finance, and other jobs generally located in more urban settings." The 1980 Census defined "urban" and "rural" and classified the population into one category or the other. Alabama is 60 percent urban and 40 percent rural. However, in Appalachian Alabama all counties, except the ones mentioned above, have more than 40 percent of their populace living in rural areas.

The appeal of small towns and country dwellings has been offset in the past by transportation difficulties. During the past two decades great progress has been made in completing the Interstate Highway System. Other highways have also been built so that all counties now have transportation facilities to end the isolation and inaccessibility traditional to Appalachia. However, *Appalachia* magazine notes that infrastructure costs in the Region will continue to be higher than the rest of the nation due to adverse topography and scattered population patterns.

Alabama's industrial mix is largely predicated on heavy industry, which is particularly vulnerable to economic swings. The recent recession hurt Appalachian Alabama more painfully than many areas of the country. The coal and steel industries of the state are located in the Region and have suffered the brunt of the economic downswing. *Appalachia* magazine further concludes that "foreign competition has eroded the direct national and international market for a number of key Appalachian industries and the market for the automobile and other industries using the products of the Region's basic industries. Some mature Appalachian industries like textiles are becoming more competitive through technological improvements, but their increased production is sometimes achieved with fewer employees."

Economic growth in the area will depend upon several factors. Retraining and educating the labor force in basic skills to meet job requirements in restructured manufacturing industries as well as in new service and high technology manufacturing industries is important. The recent re-employment assistance program for 1,000 workers in Sheffield sponsored by the State of Alabama, Ford Motor Company, and the United Auto Workers Union in the wake of the closing of the Ford plant there is an example of such an innovative approach to retraining. Another important factor in establishing economic growth is the retention of basic manufacturing industries and other existing enterprises by helping them build and maintain strong competitive positions in domestic and foreign markets. The cooperative agreement between the University of Alabama and the G.M. Rochester Products Division in Tuscaloosa as well as the similar agreement between the University and Stockham Valves in Birmingham are positive examples of attempts at such retention. Other economic growth factors *Appalachia* details are:

-- development of new enterprises, especially those in service and other fast-growing industries
-- accelerated efforts to maintain the competitive position of the Region's coal, wood, and other resources
-- assurance that adequate infrastructure and public services will be provided to support industry and a decent quality of life.

The most recent buzzword in industrial development is "high tech." Appalachian Alabama has the state's highest concentration of high tech industries in Huntsville. This kind of industry should be encouraged for other Appalachian Alabama locations, with the understanding that high tech is not a panacea. The number of new jobs created by high tech industries is expected to be relatively small in comparison to jobs in manufacturing and other industries. Many high tech industries are highly automated, rather than labor-intensive.

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS FOR ALABAMA

Type of Activity	Annual		1982			1983									
	1981	1982	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
INDUSTRIAL															
Bituminous coal production (*1,000 net tons*)	24,467	25,869	2,256	2,032	1,664	1,965	1,858	1,914	2,017	1,907	1,759	1,667	2,004	1,937	2,150
Natural gas production (*1,000,000 cu. ft.*)	126,885	133,892	10,223	11,258	11,580	12,165	10,832	11,423	11,429	10,399	10,301	10,189	10,541	9,028	10,409
Cotton consumption (*1,000 lbs.*)	331,792	320,808	28,749	27,632	26,680	25,851	29,560	33,442	29,988	31,724	32,494	24,507	33,557	31,394	29,904
Crude oil and condensate production (*1,000 barrels*)	20,669	20,011	1,498	1,714	1,762	1,732	1,511	1,603	1,561	1,564	1,525	1,586	1,592	1,435	1,522
Electric energy consumption, industrial purposes (*1,000,000 kw.h*)	25,907	21,431	1,707	1,659	1,499	1,571	1,649	1,621	1,702	1,753	1,797	1,756	1,963	1,892	1,818
Pulp, paper, and paperboard production (*1,000 net tons*)	5,153	5,419	478	462	406	484	424	517	506	556	554	561	505	511	559
CONSTRUCTION															
Building contracts awarded, new and alterations combined (*$1,000*)	1,880,000	2,012,200	183,000	159,500	170,400	139,500	144,900	253,800	225,500	293,500	327,100	160,400	219,900	242,200	278,600
Residential	289,300	847,000	86,000	83,400	59,100	74,700	70,600	104,500	107,700	123,400	125,700	100,500	101,300	162,200	138,100
Nonresidential	659,700	660,200	45,600	54,100	45,800	47,600	56,000	93,000	74,400	128,000	111,900	45,300	73,300	45,400	108,000
Public works and utilities	354,100	505,100	51,300	22,200	65,500	17,100	18,500	56,400	43,100	41,700	89,300	14,700	45,400	34,400	32,700
Cement consumption (*1,000 net tons*)	988	928	86	73	71	60	62	92	85	85	116	102	116	101	108
FINANCE															
Savings in savings and loan associations[1] (*$1,000,000*)	4,451	4,598	4,587	4,547	4,598	4,668	4,724	4,830	4,951	4,993	5,063	5,096	5,123	5,158	5,191
Tax collections (*$1,000*)															
Total	2,081,208	2,112,332	178,990	174,617	154,150	177,787	174,477	189,042	192,932	218,607	189,144	173,150	191,429	219,553	186,326
Franchise	48,167	52,016	4,318	2,255	1,492	443	861	15,688	7,306	1,145	2,777	7,524	2,253	7,300	4,430
Gasoline (excl. aviation)	201,271	197,894	16,229	16,293	15,907	17,274	15,813	14,001	17,681	16,303	17,158	17,252	17,182	17,874	16,536
Income	772,011	765,160	54,510	71,940	49,032	45,667	79,861	76,745	49,511	108,834	80,633	36,785	81,341	81,667	38,160
Motor fuels	40,470	41,505	3,827	5,149	3,448	2,967	3,658	3,049	3,763	3,901	3,136	3,206	4,195	3,383	4,189
Oil gas privilege	42,074	36,891	3,114	2,805	2,953	4,238	2,964	4,871	5,691	6,447	6,193	5,131	5,298	5,168	5,106
Oil gas production	19,254	18,510	1,520	1,401	1,468	1,504	1,485	1,808	1,362	1,823	1,541	1,319	1,319	1,331	1,314
Sales	543,673	562,208	45,920	46,451	49,258	56,835	43,331	44,491	48,128	52,546	52,347	51,650	52,961	51,526	51,888
2.2% Gross receipts	39,527	44,104	10,724	130	35	10,560	135	147	10,636	110	48	10,738	61	3,548	10,134
TVA electric	29,317	35,999		5,661	2,831		2,831	2,831	5,661	2,831	2,831	2,831	2,831	2,911	2,867
Tobacco	70,384	70,885	5,933	5,698	5,849	6,864	4,692	4,881	5,411	5,599	6,536	6,035	5,426	5,906	6,030
Use	66,247	67,876	14,218	1,372	1,017	14,086	2,039	960	14,062	1,239	816	14,707	1,097	643	15,021
Utility	123,790	134,597	10,695	10,123	16,079	12,180	12,368	13,717	12,152	11,461	10,751	10,617	11,747	12,838	22,053
PRICES															
Consumer Price Index, U.S. (*1967 = 100*)															
All items	272.3	288.8	293.6	293.2	292.0	293.1	293.2	293.4	295.5	297.1	298.1	299.3	300.3	301.8	302.6
Food	274.6	285.7	287.0	286.4	286.5	288.1	289.0	290.5	291.9	292.4	292.0	292.0	292.2	292.6	292.9
Housing	293.5	314.7	320.7	319.0	316.3	317.9	318.5	318.6	320.3	321.8	323.1	324.5	324.8	326.4	326.8
Fuel and utilities	319.2	350.8	363.4	362.2	364.1	365.4	364.6	363.8	363.6	369.3	373.6	375.5	375.1	376.4	374.4
Apparel and upkeep	186.9	191.8	195.5	195.4	193.6	191.0	192.0	194.5	195.5	196.1	195.6	195.0	197.3	200.4	200.7
Transportation	280.0	291.5	295.5	295.8	294.8	293.0	289.9	287.4	292.3	296.2	298.3	300.4	302.4	303.7	305.0
Medical care	294.5	328.7	338.7	342.2	344.3	347.8	351.3	352.3	353.5	354.3	355.4	35[illegible]	360.0	361.2	362.9
Energy	410.0	416.0	425.0	422.6	419.9	414.5	406.7	399.9	410.0	421.3	427.3	430.1	429.8	429.3	425.1
Producer Price Index, U.S.[2] (*1967 = 100*)															
All commodities	293.3	299.3	299.8	300.3	300.7	299.9	300.9	300.6	300.6	301.5	302.4	303.2	304.9	305.3	306.3
Industrial commodities	304.0	312.3	314.3	315.0	315.2	313.9	313.9	313.5	312.4	313.6	315.3	316.6	317.5	317.2	318.7
Index of prices received by Alabama farmers (*1977 = 100*)	124.3	115.5	111.0	112.0	110.0	114.0	118.0	117.0	117.0	120.0	119.0	122.0	126.0	126.0	124.0
Purchasing power of the dollar, U.S. (*1967 = $1.000*)															
As measured by															
Consumer prices	.367	.346	.341	.341	.342	.341	.341	.341	.338	.337	.335	.334	.333	.331	.330
Wholesale prices	.341	.334	.334	.333	.333	.333	.332	.333	.333	.332	.331	.330	.328	.328	.326
LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT															
Civilian labor force (*1,000 workers*)	1,669.0	1,713.0	1,752.3	1,737.9	1,720.2	1,731.5	1,740.4	1,739.8	1,732.7	1,729.4	1,732.2	1,758.3	1,746.2	1,745.3	1,769.2
Unemployment	178.0	247.0	267.8	268.1	266.9	289.9	284.1	261.9	236.6	225.0	222.2	232.0	2[illegible]4.3	214.5	218.3
Unemployment rate	10.7	14.4	15.3	15.4	15.5	16.7	16.3	15.1	13.7	13.0	12.8	13.2	12.3	12.3	12.3
Employment	1,491.0	1,466.0	1,484.5	1,469.8	1,453.3	1,441.6	1,456.3	1,477.9	1,496.1	1,504.4	1,510.0	1,526.3	1,531.9	1,530.8	1,550.9
Nonagricultural	1,347.6	1,315.0	1,309.8	1,312.3	1,310.1	1,301.6	1,302.3	1,303.9	1,309.6	1,312.5	1,319.4	1,319.2	1,311.6	1,314.3	1,319.1
Manufacturing	362.0	337.0	328.1	326.9	325.6	324.6	325.0	326.5	328.5	329.7	330.4	326.7	333.9	334.6	335.2
Durable goods	174.6	158.4	150.8	151.1	150.3	150.0	150.3	151.1	151.9	152.3	151.4	151.5	154.5	154.6	155.5
Lumber and wood products	27.2	25.3	25.1	25.5	25.7	25.7	25.7	25.9	26.0	26.3	26.6	26.6	26.7	26.9	26.7
Stone, clay, glass products	9.6	8.6	8.6	8.4	8.3	8.2	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.6	8.7	8.8	8.7	8.7
Primary metals	36.6	29.4	24.7	25.0	24.5	24.7	24.7	24.4	24.8	24.6	24.6	24.1	24.7	24.3	24.5
Blast furn. and steel works	13.5	8.8	5.3	6.0	5.5	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.8	6.0	6.1	5.5	5.7	5.2	5.4
Iron and steel foundries	12.4	11.4	10.7	10.4	10.5	10.6	10.4	10.3	10.6	10.3	10.3	10.4	10.7	10.7	10.7
Fabricated metals	25.8	23.0	22.5	22.6	22.3	22.1	21.7	22.2	22.1	22.2	22.0	22.2	22.5	22.6	22.8
Machinery (incl. electrical)	34.7	33.7	32.8	32.6	32.4	32.4	32.6	32.8	33.1	33.2	33.4	33.5	33.9	33.9	33.9
Transportation	23.7	22.4	21.1	21.0	21.2	21.1	21.3	21.8	21.6	21.4	20.0	20.2	21.8	21.9	22.5
Other durable goods	16.9	16.0	16.0	16.0	15.9	15.8	15.8	15.5	15.8	16.0	16.2	16.2	16.1	16.3	16.4
Nondurable goods	187.4	178.6	177.3	175.8	175.3	174.6	174.7	175.4	176.6	177.4	179.0	175.2	179.4	180.0	179.7
Food	27.9	26.7	26.7	26.7	26.5	26.6	26.3	26.3	26.4	26.4	26.6	26.6	26.7	26.7	26.8
Textile mill products	42.1	38.6	38.0	37.9	37.7	37.3	37.1	37.4	38.1	38.1	38.5	36.7	38.5	39.2	39.4
Apparel	54.7	53.2	53.3	52.8	52.9	52.9	53.6	53.6	53.7	54.3	54.8	53.1	54.7	55.3	54.8
Paper and allied products	20.8	20.9	20.8	20.5	20.8	20.5	20.1	20.5	20.5	20.7	21.2	21.2	21.5	20.9	20.7
Printing and publishing	10.1	10.3	10.3	10.3	10.4	10.2	10.2	10.3	10.3	10.3	10.3	10.3	10.2	10.1	10.2
Chemicals and allied products	14.5	13.1	12.5	12.4	11.9	12.0	11.9	11.9	11.8	11.7	11.7	11.4	11.7	11.7	11.7
Rubber products	14.7	13.5	13.4	12.8	12.9	13.3	13.3	13.2	13.5	13.6	13.6	13.6	13.8	13.8	13.8
Other nondurable goods	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3
Nonmanufacturing	985.6	977.9	981.7	985.4	983.5	977.0	977.3	977.4	981.1	982.8	989.0	992.5	977.7	979.7	983.9
Mining and quarrying	15.9	16.5	15.8	15.9	15.5	15.4	14.7	14.6	14.6	14.6	14.7	14.9	14.8	14.2	14.0
Bituminous coal mining	11.2	12.1	11.5	11.6	11.2	11.1	10.3	10.3	10.2	10.2	10.3	10.5	10.4	9.7	9.6
Contract construction	63.9	57.2	59.5	59.3	58.4	57.5	57.9	58.3	58.8	59.0	60.5	60.4	60.9	61.0	60.9
Trans., comm., and utilities	72.2	71.2	69.7	71.6	70.1	69.9	69.9	70.0	70.3	70.3	70.9	70.7	64.6	70.7	71.2
Trade	271.7	267.5	267.0	268.3	273.2	267.4	265.0	264.5	265.7	266.0	266.2	266.3	266.5	267.2	268.2
Wholesale	71.7	70.0	69.2	68.9	68.8	67.7	68.0	67.8	67.6	68.0	67.9	67.8	67.9	68.0	68.2
Retail	200.0	197.5	197.8	199.4	204.4	199.7	197.0	196.7	198.1	198.0	198.3	198.5	198.6	199.2	200.0
Finance, insurance, real estate	59.6	58.8	58.9	59.0	58.7	58.6	58.5	58.5	58.7	58.9	59.2	59.6	59.6	59.2	59.0
Service and miscellaneous	211.2	215.8	218.4	218.0	218.1	217.9	218.9	219.3	219.6	219.1	218.2	218.1	217.8	217.6	217.5
Government	291.3	290.9	292.4	293.3	290.5	290.3	292.5	292.2	293.4	294.9	289.3	302.5	293.5	289.8	293.1
Federal	65.4	65.2	64.9	64.8	64.7	64.6	64.5	64.6	64.8	64.9	65.6	65.6	65.7	65.1	64.4
State and local	225.8	225.7	227.5	228.5	225.8	225.7	228.0	227.6	228.6	230.0	233.7	236.9	227.8	224.7	228.7

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS FOR ALABAMA—CONTINUED

Type of Activity	Annual		1982			1983									
	1981	1982	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT—CONT.															
Other employment activity															
State Employment Service *(number)*															
Job applications	314,801	176,752	13,161	12,269	10,457	15,331	14,996	18,927	18,139	18,495	21,778	20,987	19,505	17,884	
Nonagricultural placements	77,868	66,900	4,626	3,961	3,342	4,253	4,469	6,039	7,233	6,942	10,753	15,126	10,484	7,499	
Unemployment compensation															
Initial benefit claims *(number)*	487,153	632,290	45,718	41,857	53,339	77,765	35,542	36,556	30,468	26,892	25,293	49,017	29,803	24,506	
Payments *($1,000)*	168,760	233,984	19,663	19,383	25,027	23,232	20,554	21,604	16,669	14,783	14,873	13,217	15,186	13,556	
County data *(civilian labor force and unemployment rate)*															
Autauga	14,320	15,380	15,350	15,580	15,670	15,730	15,690	15,550	15,560	15,090	15,030	15,090	15,030	15,200	15,460
	9.3	14.7	17.1	18.6	19.1	19.4	18.0	16.5	16.2	13.2	12.9	12.0	11.3	12.3	12.5
Baldwin	32,990	33,640	33,300	33,660	33,880	34,080	34,090	34,000	33,750	33,700	34,010	34,790	34,140	33,790	34,650
	7.7	12.0	12.6	13.2	14.1	14.3	14.1	12.7	11.5	11.4	10.5	11.6	10.8	11.5	11.5
Barbour	11,210	11,410	12,060	11,670	11,630	11,250	11,300	11,410	11,500	11,380	11,270	11,590	11,550	11,580	11,860
	12.4	16.4	14.5	14.5	15.5	17.4	16.4	15.2	13.9	12.3	12.4	12.8	12.7	11.6	11.7
Bibb	5,410	5,640	5,680	5,600	5,710	5,880	5,840	5,860	5,750	5,670	5,720	5,750	5,240	5,550	5,600
	20.2	22.9	23.3	22.1	27.2	27.1	26.6	23.8	20.5	18.4	17.3	16.8	16.4	18.9	16.4
Blount	14,080	14,100	14,190	13,750	13,700	13,870	14,010	14,010	14,010	13,850	13,570	13,620	13,400	13,580	13,900
	11.9	19.7	20.7	20.4	21.8	23.0	21.3	18.9	17.5	17.2	17.2	17.6	15.2	15.3	14.9
Bullock	4,470	4,310	4,720	4,600	4,440	4,110	4,140	4,160	4,240	4,360	4,360	4,510	4,510	4,670	4,820
	16.5	18.5	19.1	20.9	22.3	21.2	20.5	18.6	15.5	14.6	16.9	19.2	18.4	15.6	15.3
Butler	9,840	10,020	10,420	10,300	10,210	9,770	9,810	9,970	9,700	9,750	9,740	9,930	9,820	9,880	10,300
	13.0	20.1	19.3	21.6	22.4	21.9	21.1	21.2	17.2	16.5	16.7	16.5	15.3	14.3	16.0
Calhoun	45,000	45,810	46,290	45,740	46,110	45,900	46,570	46,560	45,800	45,870	46,230	46,920	46,850	46,420	47,190
	11.0	15.0	14.8	13.3	13.3	15.2	15.6	14.3	12.7	13.2	12.7	12.2	11.5	11.1	12.2
Chambers	15,920	16,170	15,770	15,800	15,840	16,500	16,400	16,360	16,360	16,330	16,600	16,920	16,820	16,470	16,880
	7.5	11.4	11.5	11.6	11.9	12.8	11.4	10.1	9.2	9.0	9.5	10.6	9.4	8.1	9.3
Cherokee	11,520	11,300	12,490	12,540	11,930	10,930	10,820	10,810	11,180	11,340	11,050	10,710	10,550	11,390	11,620
	7.2	14.9	13.5	16.3	14.0	16.7	25.2	22.3	14.7	12.1	12.4	18.5	17.2	10.4	14.4
Chilton	12,710	13,480	13,820	13,610	13,900	14,200	14,130	14,140	14,200	14,260	13,920	14,190	14,240	14,320	14,690
	14.7	15.6	17.3	17.9	19.4	20.0	18.6	16.1	14.5	13.9	12.6	11.9	11.7	11.9	11.7
Choctaw	5,160	5,230	5,380	5,460	5,430	5,380	5,430	5,440	5,590	5,590	5,580	5,870	5,660	5,540	5,630
	11.7	15.4	13.8	15.8	15.1	18.9	16.2	14.3	15.5	15.6	14.8	17.3	13.8	13.0	13.1
Clarke	10,110	10,470	10,010	10,610	10,500	10,710	10,970	10,940	10,590	10,550	10,990	10,940	10,750	10,620	10,790
	10.9	15.7	17.5	22.5	19.0	18.3	19.2	17.9	15.9	15.7	16.9	15.7	14.0	13.6	13.8
Clay	7,280	7,460	7,480	7,540	7,520	7,590	7,550	7,660	7,670	7,760	7,570	7,980	7,780	7,960	8,060
	9.1	12.4	13.7	15.2	15.7	17.0	14.3	13.0	12.1	13.9	13.5	15.5	11.7	11.5	11.5
Cleburne	4,900	5,080	5,370	5,300	5,340	5,170	5,190	5,180	5,170	5,160	5,080	5,090	5,010	5,130	5,240
	8.7	14.5	11.5	11.2	12.8	16.5	16.0	13.9	15.3	12.3	12.3	9.8	9.1	10.3	10.2
Coffee	19,050	19,480	18,830	18,230	18,220	20,160	20,370	20,310	20,320	20,560	20,220	20,480	20,600	20,810	20,960
	10.8	11.8	14.5	12.2	14.5	14.0	13.2	12.4	10.6	10.0	9.2	9.7	9.2	8.9	8.9
Colbert	23,110	23,540	23,180	23,150	23,660	23,980	24,160	24,310	24,010	23,620	23,540	23,960	23,910	23,770	24,110
	14.6	19.0	17.6	17.7	19.7	22.1	21.9	21.1	19.5	17.5	16.7	17.3	16.6	16.5	16.5
Conecuh	6,770	6,740	7,300	7,350	7,370	6,570	6,650	6,910	6,780	6,790	6,760	6,880	6,790	6,830	6,900
	11.1	14.0	12.4	13.4	14.1	13.0	13.2	14.9	13.2	12.1	11.6	11.6	10.9	12.8	12.2
Coosa	5,840	5,640	5,770	5,760	5,740	5,620	5,580	5,580	5,630	5,770	5,490	5,710	5,630	5,770	5,800
	7.9	10.7	10.5	11.0	11.8	12.8	12.0	11.1	10.5	10.6	9.6	10.5	8.9	8.1	8.0
Covington	15,270	15,440	16,350	16,080	16,000	15,630	15,890	15,890	16,110	16,080	16,040	16,370	16,450	16,480	16,550
	10.4	13.7	13.4	12.6	12.7	14.6	14.5	12.9	11.6	10.7	10.0	14.3	12.2	11.5	10.9
Crenshaw	6,560	6,690	7,150	6,800	6,490	6,120	6,220	6,390	6,520	6,700	6,540	6,890	6,650	6,940	7,120
	10.0	14.1	11.8	12.7	12.8	14.1	14.3	13.3	11.7	10.6	11.3	24.4	11.0	10.5	9.7
Cullman	26,650	27,480	28,670	28,090	28,150	27,790	28,600	28,380	28,420	28,500	27,940	28,360	28,030	28,660	29,430
	12.4	17.1	17.6	17.6	19.5	19.8	22.4	16.9	15.0	13.9	13.2	13.5	12.0	12.3	11.8
Dale	12,130	12,290	12,510	12,540	12,690	12,800	12,990	12,920	12,970	12,930	12,610	12,900	12,710	12,650	13,070
	12.0	13.2	13.5	14.3	16.0	16.9	16.2	14.8	13.9	12.9	12.5	13.3	12.2	11.9	12.6
Dallas	22,560	23,350	23,820	23,650	23,620	23,320	23,580	23,400	23,290	23,290	23,680	24,040	23,700	23,540	23,890
	12.6	17.6	17.6	19.8	21.0	21.4	20.6	19.1	18.8	16.5	16.1	16.7	15.6	15.7	16.0
DeKalb	27,250	28,460	28,800	28,650	28,580	29,020	29,090	29,190	29,550	29,470	29,580	30,610	30,420	30,080	30,450
	10.3	13.4	12.9	14.0	15.0	17.0	16.1	14.7	13.9	12.5	12.6	13.7	11.5	12.3	13.7
Elmore	19,300	20,280	19,660	19,600	19,460	19,830	20,060	20,370	20,210	20,280	20,250	20,240	20,270	20,120	20,410
	9.4	13.1	12.9	12.9	12.3	14.0	13.7	14.3	13.2	13.2	13.0	11.7	11.5	10.9	10.9
Escambia	15,910	16,330	15,900	15,980	15,840	16,320	16,940	16,420	16,700	16,700	16,940	17,260	16,750	16,860	17,020
	9.8	13.2	13.2	14.1	13.7	13.7	12.9	12.1	12.6	12.6	12.2	13.0	12.2	11.8	12.2
Etowah	41,600	42,740	43,500	43,580	44,110	43,240	42,920	42,810	41,730	41,600	41,220	41,920	41,800	41 460	42,230
	13.0	20.5	21.8	22.4	23.1	23.9	22.8	21.8	18.0	16.4	15.9	16.1	15.0	14.5	15.0
Fayette	10,010	9,880	10,340	10,400	10,280	9,920	10,120	10,090	10,140	10,040	10,120	10,160	10,220	10,390	10,580
	7.8	11.4	13.1	11.7	11.3	13.5	13.8	13.8	12.8	10.8	9.7	10.8	10.3	10.9	10.1
Franklin	12,390	13,350	12,930	13,000	13,280	13,680	13,690	13,720	13,810	13,780	14,180	14,700	14,430	14,530	14,620
	12.9	18.4	17.4	20.5	23.1	23.5	21.2	19.1	16.4	14.3	15.1	22.8	15.2	16.2	16.3
Geneva	10,930	10,910	11,500	11,300	11,060	10,970	11,130	11,310	11,440	11,750	11,530	11,470	11,830	12,030	12,540
	10.1	11.3	9.0	9.8	11.3	13.3	12.5	11.6	10.0	10.1	9.1	10.1	9.2	8.4	8.5
Greene	4,360	4,610	4,620	4,540	4,510	4,580	4,630	4,790	4,660	4,610	4,560	4,610	4,540	4,660	4,750
	13.4	16.9	15.7	17.3	19.1	21.6	20.6	22.5	16.6	14.6	14.4	14.1	13.3	13.3	13.1
Hale	4,830	5,040	5,060	5,000	4,950	5,060	5,090	5,000	5,030	5,080	5,010	5,340	4,950	5,110	5,260
	15.8	20.6	19.6	19.5	21.3	22.4	20.8	17.7	15.6	14.8	14.5	18.3	13.6	13.7	14.1
Henry	7,000	6,990	7,430	7,220	6,920	6,710	6,800	7,000	7,230	7,400	7,130	7,130	7,050	7,280	7,550
	8.0	12.2	10.7	11.1	11.4	13.3	13.1	12.0	10.8	10.9	11.1	11.8	10.5	10.3	9.8
Houston	39,480	38,960	40,230	40,000	39,820	38,500	38,890	39,290	39,220	39,480	39,340	40,200	39,590	40,280	40,810
	7.8	10.0	10.1	10.8	10.6	11.6	11.6	11.6	10.5	10.7	10.3	11.5	10.1	10.3	10.3
Jackson	20,920	21,050	21,480	21,320	21,170	21,270	21,300	21,220	20,870	20,530	20,140	21,100	20,190	21,120	21,660
	12.8	20.4	23.7	25.0	25.5	27.4	25.9	23.8	21.5	19.2	20.7	22.1	16.8	18.8	20.2
Jefferson	299,800	305,740	307,840	308,870	310,440	310,710	310,140	309,360	305,900	303,490	304,630	309,120	308,210	306,390	308,240
	10.6	13.8	15.8	15.6	15.8	16.3	15.5	14.4	12.8	12.2	11.9	11.7	11.4	11.9	11.5
Lamar	7,980	8,390	8,660	8,360	8,330	8,600	8,750	8,930	9,220	9,280	9,200	9,140	9,090	9,290	9,420
	8.2	13.4	19.2	12.8	12.3	12.3	11.3	10.5	10.2	9.3	9.7	8.8	8.0	8.1	8.0
Lauderdale	33,270	34,160	34,070	33,730	34,150	34,450	34,870	34,660	34,310	34,000	34,450	35,050	34,680	34,620	35,180
	12.3	17.6	17.3	16.6	17.8	19.9	20.0	18.3	16.7	15.3	15.9	16.5	15.0	15.3	15.5
Lawrence	12,510	14,250	14,680	14,620	14,990	15,220	15,190	14,870	14,660	14,290	13,960	13,910	13,670	13,770	14,100
	14.6	19.0	17.8	18.3	21.8	23.8	23.2	20.4	17.6	17.2	17.5	17.6	16.5	16.7	16.6
Lee	33,140	34,270	33,940	33,580	33,860	35,010	35,020	34,730	35,000	35,000	35,160	34,720	34,640	34,880	35,990
	6.5	9.4	9.3	10.6	10.9	13.0	10.7	8.3	7.8	7.7	8.5	8.2	8.0	7.5	7.5
Limestone	21,430	22,750	22,650	23,270	23,100	23,360	23,580	23,430	23,470	23,400	23,090	23,250	23,430	23,700	23,940
	10.9	13.7	12.7	15.5	15.3	15.7	15.8	13.6	12.2	11.0	9.1	8.6	8.7	9.3	9.2
Lowndes	4,760	4,990	5,580	5,390	5,250	4,900	5,070	5,290	5,350	5,430	5,340	5,420	5,380	5,520	5,660
	14.3	19.2	18.4	17.4	17.5	20.0	19.6	19.7	17.4	15.7	16.6	17.0	17.3	16.2	16.8
Macon	7,440	7,960	7,800	7,660	7,590	7,660	7,690	7,680	7,710	7,790	7,790	7,890	7,900	7,770	7,930
	10.9	14.7	13.7	14.1	14.0	15.9	15.2	13.7	12.6	12.8	15.5	14.3	14.3	11.9	12.1
Madison	89,880	94,210	95,020	95,200	94,260	95,070	95,810	96,420	96,670	97,580	98,820	99,130	100,060	100,340	102,010
	9.0	10.7	10.9	11.6	11.1	11.3	11.2	10.1	8.7	8.6	9.0	8.2	8.4	8.3	8.7
Marengo	8,970	9,470	9,560	9,720	9,500	9,680	9,760	9,850	9,800	9,720	9,880	10,200	9,910	9,910	10,030
	11.8	15.7	18.1	20.0	18.0	18.6	18.6	18.0	16.5	15.2	15.4	15.8	12.7	12.3	12.3
Marion	12,480	13,240	13,580	13,120	13,090	13,710	13,710	13,670	13,780	13,740	13,770	14,000	13,670	13,600	13,790
	13.2	18.4	25.3	21.3	20.8	23.6	21.7	21.2	19.9	18.9	18.7	19.2	16.7	16.4	16.8
Marshall	31,100	32,900	33,840	33,290	33,240	33,500	33,610	33,690	33,670	33,560	34,020	36,170	34,150	34,500	34,980
	12.4	14.8	16.6	15.7	16.0	16.1	15.7	14.3	12.7	11.5	12.0	16.2	10.6	11.1	11.3
Mobile	156,490	159,880	160,700	161,260	161,850	163,250	164,410	164,450	165,690	163,990	166,470	168,060	167,440	164,000	167,450
	9.6	14.0	15.8	15.9	16.5	16.9	17.2	16.1	16.2	15.4	15.1	15.0	15.4	15.3	14.9

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS FOR ALABAMA—CONTINUED

Type of Activity	Annual		1982			1983									
	1981	1982	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT—CONT.															
County data *(civilian labor force and unemployment rate)* —continued															
Monroe	10,010	10,250	10,490	10,450	10,970	10,200	10,300	10,430	10,580	10,500	10,550	10,700	10,700	10,720	10,940
	12.0	14.3	12.6	13.7	20.6	13.8	13.2	12.6	13.1	13.0	11.5	11.4	11.0	11.2	12.5
Montgomery	87,220	89,890	87,610	87,820	87,610	88,130	89,040	89,500	88,630	88,520	89,420	90,480	90,370	90,710	92,570
	9.0	10.9	11.3	11.8	11.6	12.1	11.7	11.4	10.1	9.7	10.6	10.3	9.9	10.2	10.8
Morgan	36,610	37,400	37,620	37,910	37,980	37,450	37,140	37,010	36,800	37,140	37,420	37,980	37,640	37,550	37,840
	11.4	16.1	15.8	17.4	17.6	18.8	17.3	15.8	14.5	13.8	13.5	13.5	13.1	13.4	13.6
Perry	5,440	5,200	5,640	5,540	5,570	5,630	5,580	5,680	5,660	5,800	5,860	5,920	5,910	5,880	5,980
	11.5	16.9	16.9	17.5	24.4	19.7	15.5	14.2	14.0	13.2	13.7	13.1	13.0	11.9	11.8
Pickens	7,670	7,620	7,640	7,600	7,580	7,640	7,730	7,940	7,910	7,980	7,900	7,970	7,780	7,800	7,900
	15.9	19.6	17.3	17.1	18.3	17.3	17.6	19.2	20.2	19.3	18.1	16.1	14.7	14.2	14.7
Pike	13,230	13,230	13,950	13,750	13,400	13,520	13,720	13,740	13,760	13,960	13,760	13,920	13,820	14,070	14,580
	10.0	13.4	12.3	13.5	17.4	17.7	16.8	14.4	12.5	12.6	12.8	13.7	12.5	11.9	11.1
Randolph	9,110	9,670	9,830	9,720	9,460	9,360	9,120	8,700	8,750	8,640	8,420	9,040	8,550	8,470	8,980
	10.8	21.8	23.6	24.7	24.9	25.7	22.5	18.7	17.2	18.0	16.8	24.1	16.4	13.6	13.3
Russell	17,310	18,050	17,670	17,970	17,980	18,090	18,080	17,920	17,500	17,480	17,730	17,980	18,010	17,690	17,970
	12.2	16.7	16.9	17.7	17.0	17.9	17.5	15.9	14.0	13.6	11.8	12.0	11.2	12.2	12.5
St. Clair	18,570	18,970	18,430	18,770	18,980	19,410	19,620	19,560	19,230	18,970	18,770	18,870	18,870	18,970	19,120
	11.3	14.7	13.7	14.8	15.5	17.8	18.0	16.9	14.9	13.8	12.2	11.2	11.1	12.7	12.4
Shelby	29,150	29,910	29,430	29,560	30,490	30,260	30,230	30,210	29,820	30,100	29,810	30,340	30,360	30,190	30,650
	9.2	13.0	13.0	12.9	15.3	15.2	14.4	13.4	11.7	12.6	11.1	11.2	11.1	11.7	12.1
Sumter	6,820	6,970	7,130	7,100	7,160	7,150	7,150	7,250	7,240	7,340	7,410	7,470	7,350	7,280	7,460
	13.0	17.4	16.6	16.0	16.5	17.2	15.7	16.1	14.2	12.0	14.3	15.0	12.8	10.3	11.3
Talladega	29,480	30,630	30,900	30,930	31,260	31,230	31,220	30,980	30,530	30,570	30,180	30,400	30,380	30,090	30,500
	13.5	19.3	19.9	20.5	20.6	21.5	21.3	19.8	17.2	17.2	17.0	16.9	16.9	16.0	15.8
Tallapoosa	16,420	17,250	16,850	16,960	16,980	17,330	17,240	17,360	17,070	17,110	17,650	18,230	17,810	17,550	17,840
	8.4	13.3	11.6	12.3	11.8	13.7	12.4	11.6	10.2	11.1	11.0	13.9	10.9	9.5	10.4
Tuscaloosa	55,160	55,380	55,110	54,890	55,140	56,030	56,800	56,320	55,690	55,910	54,990	55,610	55,830	55,600	56,840
	10.3	12.6	12.1	11.4	12.1	14.5	15.2	13.5	11.9	12.5	12.3	11.9	11.6	11.1	11.5
Walker	31,510	31,720	32,100	31,420	32,180	32,420	32,690	32,500	32,360	32,330	32,080	32,690	32,580	32,450	33,470
	13.0	15.1	17.4	15.2	16.9	18.0	18.0	16.6	15.7	15.7	14.4	14.6	14.2	14.9	16.6
Washington	6,030	6,260	6,340	6,330	6,260	6,430	6,320	6,430	6,480	6,520	6,640	6,810	6,560	6,750	6,790
	13.0	16.8	16.8	18.5	19.8	22.5	21.1	20.0	20.5	20.0	19.6	20.6	17.4	17.2	16.7
Wilcox	4,840	5,170	5,710	6,110	5,510	5,410	5,420	5,440	5,410	5,290	5,220	5,260	5,210	5,360	5,500
	12.6	22.6	24.1	34.0	25.6	25.5	28.0	26.6	26.2	21.3	20.6	19.0	18.4	19.4	19.9
Winston	8,310	8,450	8,870	8,700	8,520	8,480	8,780	8,500	8,340	8,280	8,210	8,320	8,250	8,310	8,530
	16.5	22.6	24.9	23.2	23.9	25.7	27.6	22.1	18.8	17.3	17.2	17.8	17.1	16.3	17.5
TRADE															
Foreign, through Port of Mobile															
Imports															
Value *($1,000)*	727,078	551,093	43,393	56,588	26,764	68,870	42,897	39,541	61,087	72,807	49,281	33,162	70,692	22,392	
Shipping weight *(1,000,000 lbs.)*	16,032	8,142	629	709	591	447	370	308	651	560	353	343	819	430	
Exports															
Value *($1,000)*	1,430,730	1,222,158	86,681	122,662	99,164	78,730	80,453	68,176	81,973	60,503	71,690	51,007	33,212	51,981	
Shipping weight *(1,000,000 lbs.)*	14,210	14,577	1,046	1,241	1,269	1,133	1,057	757	1,061	898	1,150	610	344	524	
Shipments by water, Port of Mobile[a] *(1,000 tons)*	37,649	39,655	3,401	3,259	3,050	3,030	2,695	2,574	3,193	3,051	3,268	2,560	3,013	2,812	2,948
Domestic															
Electric energy consumption, non-industrial purposes *(1,000,000 kwh)*	22,713	22,680	1,799	1,616	1,762	1,995	1,998	1,668	1,650	1,490	1,678	2,149	2,571	2,547	1,798
Gasoline sales[a] *(1,000 gallons)*	1,849,225	1,840,396	151,929	148,040	161,810	147,757	132,674	163,666	150,978	158,764					
New passenger car registrations[b] *(number)*	112,051	100,717	8,091	9,441	9,205	8,018	8,462	9,326	9,544	11,620	10,663	11,039	10,012	11,288	10,378
Retail sales by kind of business, state totals[b] *($1,000,000)*															
Food	3,580	3,634	313	302	324	291	290	309	323	330	343	359	341	328	
General stores with food and gas	319	331	30	27	28	25	24	28	29	35	32	33	32	31	
General merchandise	2,190	2,292	190	231	312	123	150	192	204	171	163	192	200	195	
Apparel	486	499	41	43	69	33	32	46	45	44	42	42	47	47	
Furniture, furnishings, etc	527	534	43	45	55	40	41	49	49	53	56	57	60	57	
Automotive	2,570	2,690	218	234	226	208	224	285	294	314	338	346	361	352	
Gasoline service stations	1,384	1,342	114	109	108	93	88	101	101	116	120	123	124	119	
Lumber and building materials	844	778	69	66	61	55	57	75	78	92	98	102	119	115	
Hardware and farm implements	384	351	30	30	30	23	24	34	34	39	42	41	42	42	
Eating places	1,043	1,112	97	92	98	82	87	101	99	104	104	110	111	106	
Drug stores	458	536	42	42	50	36	45	46	47	48	42	45	47	45	
All other retail	2,445	2,433	193	198	255	176	177	220	218	257	269	258	284	276	
Total sales by retail concerns	16,230	16,531	1,381	1,420	1,616	1,185	1,208	1,486	1,521	1,602	1,650	1,707	1,769	1,714	
Nonretail and unclassified concerns	4,514	4,749	402	390	400	346	330	402	379	415	426	400	417	442	
Total all sales at retail	20,744	21,280	1,783	1,810	2,016	1,531	1,568	1,888	1,900	2,017	2,076	2,107	2,185	2,156	
Retail sales, Metropolitan Statistical Areas and counties[b] *($1,000)*															
MSAs															
Anniston	423,025	432,037	38,000	36,511	40,978	30,595	31,503	38,014	38,207	40,081	43,196	50,400	51,918	49,108	
Birmingham	5,494,855	5,604,598	467,563	473,309	534,534	407,042	415,483	507,016	512,129	534,198	552,964	557,679	593,479	616,564	
Dothan												64,965	68,232	63,183	
Florence	556,594	571,705	46,787	48,926	56,257	40,867	41,940	51,168	54,389	54,854	57,684	70,409	73,320	70,376	
Gadsden	436,613	395,868	32,420	33,616	35,395	31,901	31,589	37,482	38,048	42,053	44,799	55,508	58,558	55,749	
Huntsville	1,260,399	1,064,631	89,873	73,780	79,708	64,051	65,760	77,023	76,972	87,490	93,780	111,498	117,833	116,333	
Mobile	2,233,905	2,131,641	175,536	175,690	198,821	162,621	158,271	189,502	195,203	209,378	219,859	260,500	267,518	242,464	
Montgomery	1,194,774	1,224,760	101,461	105,532	117,205	90,921	94,172	110,856	114,518	122,959	128,413	147,176	155,448	149,807	
Tuscaloosa	546,744	552,075	47,602	47,404	53,034	43,265	41,589	49,621	51,174	53,023	57,561	63,913	69,031	68,010	
Counties															
Autauga	107,817	107,927	8,603	8,868	9,384	7,820	8,284	9,694	9,681	10,521	10,986	10,071	9,792	9,222	
Baldwin	374,226	366,715	28,868	27,634	29,025	25,356	25,516	32,013	32,633	36,932	39,400	49,027	48,965	42,717	
Barbour	65,935	62,778	5,426	5,474	5,470	4,481	4,545	5,157	5,496	6,571	5,698	7,023	6,906	6,862	
Bibb	27,206	27,761	2,372	2,306	2,944	2,134	1,988	2,305	2,381	2,466	2,641	4,016	4,129	3,803	
Blount	83,509	80,384	6,494	6,292	6,778	5,994	5,952	6,873	6,576	7,106	7,674	8,689	9,181	9,089	
Bullock	30,211	29,766	5,925	5,604	6,349	5,980	5,761	2,346	2,873	2,715	2,810	3,188	2,841	3,029	
Butler	65,054	61,385	5,262	5,162	5,976	4,913	4,716	5,309	5,364	5,924	6,019	7,567	7,596	7,361	
Calhoun	423,025	432,037	38,000	36,511	40,978	30,595	31,503	38,014	38,207	40,081	43,196	50,400	51,918	49,108	
Chambers	94,277	91,694	7,851	7,898	8,054	7,121	6,980	8,411	8,579	9,081	9,258	12,006	11,759	11,787	
Cherokee	55,069	52,267	4,265	4,046	4,458	3,439	3,698	4,595	4,797	4,913	5,969	5,535	4,905	4,953	
Chilton	85,151	92,523	7,839	7,626	7,677	6,857	6,658	8,411	8,987	9,514	9,767	11,040	11,110	10,404	
Choctaw	49,651	50,700	4,433	4,196	4,464	3,902	3,592	4,143	4,220	4,412	4,120	4,732	4,728	4,535	
Clarke	90,980	89,267	7,635	7,504	8,101	6,884	6,688	7,822	8,464	8,494	8,617	10,630	10,118	9,021	
Clay	26,767	26,957	2,315	2,221	2,525	2,041	2,004	2,185	2,433	2,076	2,334	2,518	2,758	2,327	
Cleburne	22,776	24,342	2,148	2,283	2,290	2,013	1,982	2,407	2,568	2,587	2,671	2,633	2,492	2,545	
Coffee	139,979	142,602	12,549	12,103	12,842	10,961	11,476	13,642	13,968	15,283	15,128	18,124	18,221	17,927	

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS FOR ALABAMA—CONTINUED

Type of Activity	Annual		1982			1983									
	1981	1982	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
TRADE—CONTINUED															
Retail sales, MSAs and counties—continued															
Counties—continued															
Colbert	285,137	296,642	24,863	24,906	25,568	21,822	21,916	25,869	28,078	27,867	29,772	33,063	35,025	33,829	.....
Conecuh	37,804	34,109	2,886	2,850	2,896	2,310	2,632	2,968	3,327	3,447	3,364	4,267	4,416	4,350	.....
Coosa	22,333	20,855	1,946	1,622	1,646	1,500	1,577	1,725	1,534	1,954	1,834	1,890	2,036	1,855	.....
Covington	136,198	140,600	11,890	10,819	12,200	9,874	10,147	12,394	13,201	13,891	14,066	15,449	16,587	15,137	.....
Crenshaw	33,792	32,420	2,675	2,686	2,636	2,407	2,622	2,837	3,214	3,593	3,430	3,451	3,411	3,244	.....
Cullman	253,646	248,961	21,358	20,556	20,836	18,638	17,236	21,521	23,443	25,197	25,981	28,470	28,381	28,085	.....
Dale	93,394	97,446	7,977	7,636	8,814	7,170	6,842	8,289	8,851	9,810	9,798	11,301	11,515	10,874	.....
Dallas	210,054	188,352	16,002	15,378	16,686	12,984	12,973	15,508	16,700	18,489	18,677	21,956	22,968	21,302	.....
DeKalb	169,062	171,660	15,072	14,095	15,216	11,959	12,004	14,442	15,435	16,717	17,803	20,114	20,233	19,794	.....
Elmore	87,830	82,262	6,927	6,504	6,985	5,690	6,260	6,853	7,367	7,838	7,748	10,720	10,442	9,809	.....
Escambia	138,098	133,511	11,212	11,943	12,888	10,238	10,210	12,695	12,614	13,662	13,963	15,366	15,667	14,935	.....
Etowah	436,613	395,868	32,420	33,616	35,395	31,901	31,589	37,482	38,048	42,053	44,799	56,508	58,556	55,749	.....
Fayette	87,645	85,349	6,493	6,668	8,235	6,419	6,144	7,627	7,436	7,809	8,057	7,241	7,504	7,246	.....
Franklin	92,420	88,055	7,581	7,142	7,551	6,026	6,209	7,618	8,341	9,026	9,256	11,178	10,681	10,790	.....
Geneva	134,459	146,372	12,481	12,562	13,053	12,536	11,895	12,848	13,497	18,532	17,552	14,130	14,457	13,702	.....
Greene	22,753	21,917	1,879	1,885	1,939	1,412	1,395	1,803	1,722	2,254	2,167	2,334	2,027	2,061	.....
Hale	36,129	35,115	3,105	2,828	3,191	2,409	2,631	2,988	3,182	3,330	3,849	4,212	3,965	4,084	.....
Henry	45,233	40,210	3,300	3,359	3,452	2,779	2,767	3,403	3,884	3,994	3,945	3,941	3,593	3,955	.....
Houston	442,988	430,944	36,298	37,218	41,807	33,510	33,236	40,275	42,195	43,132	44,966	53,664	56,717	52,309	.....
Jackson	154,603	147,971	12,641	11,341	12,261	9,452	10,588	12,855	12,593	13,900	15,026	17,427	17,663	17,239	.....
Jefferson	4,861,688	4,911,769	407,303	413,960	471,173	351,654	360,371	440,068	441,414	458,723	476,481	476,958	511,707	535,403	.....
Lamar	37,002	37,354	3,018	2,870	4,159	2,847	2,568	3,025	3,269	3,684	3,610	3,783	4,116	4,045	.....
Lauderdale	271,457	275,063	21,924	24,020	30,689	19,045	20,024	25,299	26,311	26,987	27,912	37,346	38,295	36,547	.....
Lawrence	63,483	64,612	5,213	5,398	5,579	4,652	4,238	5,382	5,914	6,454	7,014	7,700	7,511	7,125	.....
Lee	308,421	291,706	24,571	24,709	26,086	20,917	22,550	26,930	27,116	29,382	30,736	33,615	34,969	36,257	.....
Limestone	147,969	148,159	12,801	12,513	13,292	10,344	10,371	13,412	13,854	14,036	15,435	18,048	17,968	17,568	.....
Lowndes	23,213	23,153	2,036	1,893	2,037	1,622	1,557	1,793	1,997	2,128	1,869	2,226	1,760	1,861	.....
Macon	45,438	42,695	3,418	3,200	3,138	2,882	3,050	3,494	3,957	4,348	4,466	5,595	5,310	4,983	.....
Madison	838,433	859,722	69,873	73,780	79,708	34,051	65,760	77,023	76,972	87,490	93,780	111,498	117,833	116,333	.....
Marengo	85,699	87,042	6,920	8,098	7,867	6,324	6,212	8,098	8,705	7,059	6,554	8,859	8,985	8,257	.....
Marion	68,640	69,720	6,184	5,750	6,441	5,540	5,129	6,255	6,829	7,422	7,699	9,457	9,159	9,351	.....
Marshall	273,997	267,967	22,330	21,618	24,348	19,349	20,189	24,855	26,811	29,184	29,423	35,862	38,028	37,019	.....
Mobile	1,859,679	1,764,926	146,668	148,056	169,796	137,265	132,755	157,489	162,570	172,446	180,459	211,473	218,553	199,747	.....
Monroe	94,613	103,747	10,467	11,375	8,675	7,364	7,834	9,431	9,944	10,210	10,359	11,160	12,491	11,799	.....
Montgomery	999,127	1,034,571	85,931	90,160	100,836	77,411	79,628	94,309	97,470	104,600	109,679	126,385	135,214	130,776	.....
Morgan	480,257	476,698	36,375	36,807	41,830	34,194	35,573	46,783	47,198	52,796	48,956	54,284	58,515	57,048	.....
Perry	30,104	28,382	2,433	2,315	2,375	1,949	1,974	2,163	2,431	2,554	2,433	2,592	2,616	2,867	.....
Pickens	55,550	51,737	4,339	4,380	4,713	3,836	3,558	4,440	5,119	5,576	5,225	5,775	5,451	4,961	.....
Pike	88,946	83,838	7,648	6,722	7,230	5,631	6,066	7,689	8,560	9,619	8,561	9,715	10,762	11,139	.....
Randolph	55,212	54,925	4,642	4,769	5,473	4,376	4,483	5,396	5,139	5,399	5,249	5,809	5,818	6,207	.....
Russell	92,012	95,484	7,812	7,780	8,843	6,991	7,378	8,713	9,235	9,910	10,072	11,751	12,631	11,521	.....
St. Clair	105,105	105,453	8,653	8,525	9,141	8,239	9,111	11,023	12,353	13,493	14,144	15,720	14,987	14,679	.....
Shelby	262,248	261,472	22,076	21,559	22,598	19,339	18,476	24,021	26,070	27,655	28,931	26,253	27,429	27,143	.....
Sumter	35,672	34,465	2,963	2,551	3,183	2,474	2,552	2,844	3,017	3,079	3,172	3,372	3,506	3,303	.....
Talladega	227,798	219,173	17,433	17,778	19,303	16,906	16,114	19,218	19,383	23,002	21,632	26,037	25,459	24,821	.....
Tallapoosa	125,921	122,749	10,848	10,422	11,435	9,348	9,634	11,180	12,076	12,886	13,320	14,511	14,305	14,921	.....
Tuscaloosa	546,744	552,075	47,602	47,404	53,034	43,285	41,589	49,621	51,174	53,023	57,561	63,913	69,031	68,010	.....
Walker	265,814	286,965	23,037	22,973	24,844	21,816	21,573	25,031	25,716	27,221	25,734	30,059	30,175	30,250	.....
Washington	32,035	29,920	2,437	2,372	2,440	2,215	2,029	2,691	2,253	2,415	2,302	2,579	2,341	2,345	.....
Wilcox	33,877	35,627	3,182	2,910	3,095	2,586	2,727	3,121	3,108	3,183	3,155	3,465	3,534	3,363	.....
Winston	65,605	64,854	5,259	5,157	5,263	4,440	4,495	5,502	5,864	6,102	6,662	7,545	8,096	7,337	.....
Statewide[11]	3,600,377	4,185,970	358,517	376,675	426,315	270,554	296,711	356,404	326,544	339,611	341,517	180,750	175,623	183,608	.....
BUILDING ACTIVITY[12]															
Alabama total															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Total	832,386	712,696	49,361	49,714	68,161	53,990	51,306	84,232	72,068	108,222	72,677	93,959	120,559	96,165	86,676
Residential	295,838	237,082	21,960	18,975	18,021	25,652	25,793	43,724	40,009	47,803	32,005	39,580	47,066	34,835	43,819
Nonresidential	280,294	300,343	14,269	19,385	40,757	16,128	16,272	20,153	17,120	34,301	20,565	26,714	35,834	29,816	19,695
In selected cities															
Anniston															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Total	8,062	5,965	469	362	422	439	445	674	791	850	905	826	895	794	818
Residential	3,089	2,700	239	250	239	269	271	417	312	341	346	306	309	263	268
Nonresidential	1,819	442	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	112	96	112	92	124	106	109
Birmingham															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Total	152,970	109,048	4,789	6,510	28,748	10,220	2,369	11,394	5,671	23,569	8,012	7,729	14,059	30,767	9,844
Residential	31,815	13,918	1,044	565	845	495	690	7,607	977	9,643	1,221	1,378	1,317	2,529	4,275
Nonresidential	34,576	61,839	820	2,628	27,027	7,013	1,133	1,580	1,098	2,177	1,911	1,855	7,416	12,498	767
Decatur															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Total	18,046	8,551	767	652	716	648	1,826	1,129	1,073	1,154	1,235	1,167	1,367	1,424	1,278
Residential	6,447	2,937	191	190	170	230	152	307	713	722	770	741	918	995	862
Nonresidential	10,157	3,812	383	285	388	272	70	603	123	163	177	150	155	156	140
Dothan															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Total	17,578	28,821	944	1,870	2,206	1,299	841	2,162	899	695	1,073	1,388	1,340	700	3,402
Residential	4,982	5,626	184	289	450	458	450	884	568	326	475	350	366	316	2,412
Nonresidential	4,394	9,720	128	1,359	1,217	345	88	973	230	59	176	468	319	40	367
Gadsden															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Total	8,035	10,429	841	468	1,137	1,359	254	981	395	1,351	529	4,695	354	549	550
Residential	1,166	1,517	84	71	77	23	63	271	41	273	194	170	282	224	329
Nonresidential	819	3,271	40	303	435	181	5	53	2	378	271	161	2	271	201
Huntsville															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Total	56,466	58,302	3,913	3,031	3,546	3,561	4,819	6,213	5,583	15,688	10,765	12,423	17,391	8,823	20,834
Residential	10,571	18,311	2,490	1,732	1,236	2,365	3,170	3,240	1,935	4,390	3,263	9,556	7,145	2,171	10,578
Nonresidential	32,638	14,238	383	809	630	542	550	1,874	1,766	10,098	5,693	669	6,403	5,166	3,320
Mobile															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Total	95,890	83,675	3,523	9,570	4,881	5,796	8,906	9,046	8,756	14,828	3,923	14,352	13,411	5,161	6,093
Residential	21,398	19,544	1,203	668	1,051	2,258	7,068	2,489	6,816	4,337	1,334	1,132	1,810	1,127	990
Nonresidential	48,281	43,701	1,250	7,596	2,751	2,202	805	3,737	973	9,054	664	11,007	10,337	1,465	2,188

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS FOR ALABAMA—CONTINUED

Type of Activity	Annual		1982			1983									
	1981	1982	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
BUILDING ACTIVITY —CONTINUED															
Montgomery															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Total	49,867	52,352	2,036	4,017	2,861	4,057	3,297	7,692	10,648	7,877	6,777	6,275	6,829	6,315	6,326
Residential	14,560	15,363	1,117	1,607	1,363	2,492	2,061	4,125	4,797	3,407	2,568	2,473	2,354	2,081	2,108
Nonresidential	16,266	22,178	531	1,815	960	487	489	1,940	5,301	3,265	2,542	2,205	2,762	2,652	2,596
Quad-Cities[11]															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Total	29,011	18,563	2,333	1,238	781	798	858	977	718	1,247	1,244	1,612	1,361	1,250	852
Residential	11,429	7,481	912	1,027	780	668	502	711	341	451	640	473	513	623	428
Nonresidential	8,453	5,722	1,141	3		56	340	45	246	176	261	737	705	380	337
Selma															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Total	4,546	2,757	1,158	72	25	248	1,049	105	184	635	115	336	103	901	67
Residential	1,027	987	200	25		8		25	63	125	30		20		
Nonresidential	1,029	1,739	871	10	6		18	22	19	384	10	275	20	18	30
Tuscaloosa															
Building permits ($1,000)															
Total	17,343	21,418	1,351	1,023	771	2,323	1,869	3,672	1,458	3,023	3,600	2,862	3,340	3,777	1,814
Residential	4,956	6,592	591	301	427	590	1,402	2,697	850	1,674	1,205	2,338	1,194	1,378	396
Nonresidential	6,617	8,408	336	41	135	1,509	209	84	187	424	569	187	1,221	711	527

NOTE: Throughout this table, details do not necessarily add to totals due to rounding. [1]Estimated total for calendar month based on adjustment of weekly data. [2]Individual months may not add to annual totals due to late revisions in annual data. [3]These data may not be reused in any manner without the express permission of F. W. Dodge Div., McGraw-Hill Information Co. [4]End-of-month balance. [5]Beginning January 1978, the Consumer Price Index consists of "All Urban Consumers." Prior to that date, it included only "Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers." Historical data will not be available due to the change in coverage. No "Energy" data are available prior to 1978, and "Housing" data prior to January 1978 are not comparable to the new "Housing" series due to a change in definition. [6]These data were previously presented as the "Wholesale Price Index." The new title more accurately reflects the coverage of the data. [7]Civilian labor force, unemployment, and total employment are adjusted by place of residence, and total nonagricultural employment and its components are by place of work. All monthly data are adjusted to a March benchmark of the previous year. [8]Includes both inbound and outbound shipments by water moving through private facilities as well as through the Alabama State Docks; excludes tonnage for military installations. [9]Excludes sales to federal government. [10]These data may not be reused in any manner without the express permission of R. L. Polk and Company. [11]Retail sales data represent sales at retail as reported to the Alabama Department of Revenue under the definition of the Alabama Sales Tax Law. Total sales figures include sales at retail by wholesalers and other nonretail firms as well as retail concerns. Sales at retail thus defined should not be confused with all sales (including nonretail sales) by retail concerns as reported in the *Census of Retail Trade*. **Monthly sales figures are preliminary and subject to revision on a continuing basis. Sales figure for the two latest months are normally low because they do not yet include data from late reporters. Retail sales historical data prior to 1977 are not available for the new series. Birmingham and Huntsville MSA sales data after June 1983 are not directly comparable with earlier data because county designations were changed. The "Statewide" category in the "County" section provides sales figures which are not attributable to individual counties; it does not represent a state total.** [12]Private construction only. May be partially estimated by the Bureau of the Census; the sum of monthly figures may not equal annual total. "Total" construction includes additions and alterations, therefore, is not a sum of residential and nonresidential. [13]Quad-Cities consists of Florence, Muscle Shoals, Sheffield, and Tuscumbia.

Retail Trade Data in Suspension

Beginning with this issue, updates of retail sales data will not appear. This suspension is expected to be temporary and is necessary to allow a review of the data series toward possible corrections to the data already published. In this issue, retail sales for the state, MSAs, and counties for October 1983 do not appear. Reports for prior months of 1983 contain revisions, however.

The review of this series resulted from a change by the State Revenue Department in the form used by establishments to report their monthly retail sales. CBER compiles retail sales estimates from computer tapes provided by the Revenue Department. The new form, which went into effect in March 1983, is much more concise than its predecessor. As a consequence, some of the detail used to compile retail sales estimates was lost, with a corresponding loss in consistency across time.

Also, some retail sales estimates for the Alabama MSAs were not properly matched with the city names in the January 1984 issue. Affected were the Dothan, Florence, Gadsden, Huntsville, Mobile, Montgomery, and Tuscaloosa MSA reports. That error has been corrected in this issue.

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Alabama and the Sunbelt

According to Webster, the term Sunbelt (coined circa 1952) is defined as the nation's southern and southwestern states. That scanty definition has provided writers a wide latitude in drawing their boundaries for numerous articles about the Sunbelt, and as a result they frequently disagree as to exactly what is and what is not the Sunbelt. However, there is little disagreement that the socioeconomic growth experienced in the Sunbelt during the past decade or so has been nothing short of phenominal. Alabama by virtue of its location is difficult to exclude from almost any definition of the Sunbelt.

For this discussion, fourteen other states were selected in addition to Alabama as the Sunbelt. These were Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas, and Virginia. The 1982-83 *Statistical Abstract of the United States* was the source of statistics for making comparisons among these states.

The U.S. population increased by 11.4 percent between the 1970 and 1980 censuses of population and housing. With an increase in population of 53.1 percent, Arizona led the Sunbelt states in rate of population growth. Nationally Arizona's rate of growth was second only to Nevada, which experienced a 63.8 percent increase in population for the decade. Florida's population growth also was quite robust, amounting to 43.5 percent between decennial censuses and placing the state second within the Sunbelt. While above the national average, Alabama's population increase of 13.1 percent placed the state fourteenth on the list of Sunbelt states. Missouri experienced the smallest rate of population increase of the Sunbelt states with 5.1 percent.

Nonagricultural employment in Alabama increased from 1,155,000 in 1975 to 1,356,000 in 1980. This 17.4 percent increase placed Alabama next to last among the fifteen Sunbelt states. Missouri's 13.1 percent increase in nonagricultural employment was less. However, Missouri had 586,000 more nonagricultural workers in 1975 and 614,000 more in 1980 than did Alabama. Leading the Sunbelt states in percent increase in nonagricultural employment was Arizona. That state saw its number of nonagricultural workers increase by 39.1 percent from 1975 to 1980. However, Arizona had 342,000 fewer nonagricultural employees in 1980 than did Alabama. Florida was just behind Arizona in increase in nonagricultural employment among the Sunbelt states. Florida's number of nonagricultural employees increased by 30.2 percent during the five-year period. Nonagricultural employment in Florida in 1980 was 3,567,000 workers.

The wealth of an area's people is frequently cited as a measure of the quality of life in that area. Per capita personal income for 1981 as measured in constant 1972 (inflation adjusted) dollars amounted to $5,430 for the U.S. as a whole. Among the fifteen Sunbelt states, this measure ranged in 1981 from a high of $6,225 for California to a low of $3,746 for Mississippi. Alabama's per capita personal income for 1981, at $4,233, was twelfth on the list of fifteen states. Alabama was followed by South Carolina at $4,156 and Arkansas at $4,152.

While historically lower in amount than the national average, growth in Alabama per capita personal income in recent years has closed the gap on other states. From 1970 to 1980, Alabama per capita personal income in constant dollars increased by 32.4 percent, which compares to a 24.6 percent gain in per capita personal income for the nation as a whole. This increase placed Alabama seventh among the Sunbelt states. Louisiana per capita personal income growth for the decade amounted to 43.8 percent, first among the Sunbelt states. Growth in Florida per capita personal income amounted to 23.1 percent, close to the national average but last among the Sunbelt states.

Alabama also has gained on the national average for total personal income in recent years, although the gain is rather lackluster in comparison to other Sunbelt states. Total personal income in Alabama as measured in constant dollars increased 49.7 percent during 1970-80, which compares to a 39.0 percent increase for the nation as a whole. However, this increase placed the state only eleventh among the Sunbelt states. Arizona marked an increase of 87.5 percent in total personal income during 1970-80, the highest increase among the Sunbelt states. Missouri placed last among the fifteen Sunbelt states in total personal income growth at 30.1 percent for 1970-1980.

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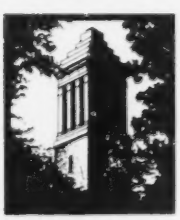

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